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Docket No. 60,469-219
OT-5094

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks contained in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

The changes to paragraph 0024 in the specification are clerical in nature and are intended to use consistent terminology in association with the reference numeral 58. No new matter has been introduced and the amendment should be entered.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowed and allowable subject matter. Claim 5 was indicated as being allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Claim 7 was indicated as being allowable. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 was indicated as being allowable. Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12. Claims 22 and 25 were both indicated as being allowable.

Claims 16 and 17 are independent claims that were not yet indicated as being allowable but they are allowable.

Claim 16 cannot be considered obvious.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon the proposed combination of *Salmon, et al.* in view of *Bauer* and *Orrman, et al.* The proposed combination cannot be made because it would alter the arrangement of the *Salmon, et al.* reference in a manner that would interfere with the ability of the *Salmon, et al.* arrangement to work as it is intended to operate. The Examiner proposes to modify the *Salmon, et al.* arrangement by orienting the axes of the sheaves 12 and 16 such that they are parallel. This is not possible because it will not allow the *Salmon, et al.* arrangement to work.

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The *Salmon, et al.* reference specifically provides for an offset angle X between the sheaves 12 and 16 "that permits the portions 20a and 20b to clear each other, thus giving rise to an "interleaved" rope pattern (at IX) where the portions 20a and 20b cross. The angle (draw angle) between the rope and the deflection sheave and the drive sheave is about 1.5°." (Column 2, lines 52-56) If one were to change that draw angle so that the axes of the sheaves 12 and 16 were parallel to each other, it would not be possible to achieve the "interleaved" rope pattern required by the *Salmon, et al.* reference. Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed modification to the *Salmon, et al.* reference cannot be made because it would render *Salmon, et al.*'s arrangement inoperative. Therefore, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 16.

Claim 17 cannot be considered obvious.

Claim 17 includes an idler sheave in parallel with a drive sheave. As already mentioned, the *Salmon, et al.* reference cannot be modified by the *Orrman, et al.* reference in a manner that would make the axes of the sheaves 12 and 16 in the *Salmon, et al.* arrangement parallel. Such a modification to the *Salmon, et al.* arrangement cannot be made. Therefore, it cannot be considered obvious to perform the method of claim 17 because that would require modifying the *Salmon, et al.* reference in a manner that would render it unable to perform its intended function. If the axes of the sheaves 12 and 16 in the *Salmon, et al.* reference were parallel, the "interleaved" rope pattern described in column 2, lines 43-56 is no longer possible. Therefore, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 17.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance as soon as possible.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Response for Application Serial No. 10/537,605, is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on March 19, 2007.



Theresa M. Palmateer